

DELBERT ERNEST LANGDON

Delbert Ernest Langdon is the third child of Oscar Hubert and Minnie May (Thompson) Langdon. He was born 25 October 1902 at Elkhead, Oregon in Douglas County. "No doctors helped deliver babies in those days and mothers would stay in bed for nine days after having a baby."

"My folks moved around a lot between Scotts Valley, Elkhead, and Red Hill. Mamie was born on top of Dickinson Mountain, Leland was born on Jason Jackson's place (near Percy's), Ruby and Beulah were born on Red Hill in my old house, and Percy and George were born at Elkhead in the old house that burned at the upper place.

When the old house caught on fire, Mamie and Fred were there in the living room and mother was cooking dinner. She took the pot of beans outside and tried to put the fire out. The family threw stuff out the window, but it was too close to the house and burned. They were able to save Beulah's piano and Eldon carried out the old Victrola. (Eldon was given the Victrola and in later years it was given to his son Butch Lee). I was living on Red Hill then. George walked over the hill to tell me about the fire. He was wearing an old hat that lopped down over his ears. (a hat that our mother wore). I said to him, "that's some hat you've got on!" George said, "it's the best I've got, everything else burned!"

In about 1908 I started my first year of school on Red Hill on what was the Westeniser place, it was later known as the Lamb place. Then I went to school at Elkhead at what was later the Grange Hall. School terms were three months long. During the next year, I got Polio (Infantile Paralysis). It was during the fall of the year. I couldn't get up when I fell down and Beulah would have to help me up. Doctors didn't know how to doctor it & a lot of people died from Polio. I missed part of the school term. My folks would rub alcohol on my arms and feet. I had a fever and could not get up. My dad worked in the grain fields (by my old house) during the day and at night he would help mother take care of me.

My first teachers were Delia Olson, Gertrude Smith, Alice Larkins, and Golda Starr. At Elkhead, I had Eunice Post, Ethel Shields, Adabell McCord, Bessie Daugherty, Katie Gray, Mabel Shortridge, Ada Sherman, and Mrs. Green. Mrs. Green had a boyfriend called Mr. Bales, so the kids teased her and called her "Green Bales". Mabel Shortridge was called "Shortrib." I finished the eight grade of school and started farming. I have farmed all of my life as well as shearing sheep."

On October 9, 1942, Delbert married Helen Pernita McCoskey at the Douglas County Courthouse in Roseburg. They had lunch at Silver Nook Cafe there. They lived on Red Hill in the old house for 51 years until putting in a double wide mobile home in 1993. They had 10 children, 7 girls & 3 boys)

Oral history from Delbert Langdon (1994 age 92)
By Dorothy Langdon-Dowell

When Delbert was nine days old, his family moved from his birthplace at Elkhead to Shoestring road (down the road from Percy's where Effie Howard lived). Then the family moved to Red Hill where Beulah and Ruby were born. In 1910 they moved back to Elkhead and built a house at the upper place. This is where Percy and George were born. This house burned down and the old one that is there now was built. March 1928, Delbert moved back to Red Hill for two years, then to Scotts Valley for two years. There, he rented Mamie and Fred's place and farmed. Ruby lived there with him and taught school at the Old Scotts Valley School by I-5 exchange. (school no longer there) She taught less than a year because of an appendicitis. Delbert moved back to Red Hill in 1932, farmed and married in Oct. 1942. He has lived on Red Hill since then. He lived in the old house until they put in the mobile home in 1993. Before Delbert was married, George stayed with him one year during the school term to go to high school in Yoncalla. He rode the bus to school from Red Hill.

While Ruby and Delbert were at Scotts Valley, Billy Morris came and spent a short time. He and Percy cut Christmas trees and got a trailer and hauled them to California. Delbert later bought the trailer.

Oral history from Delbert Langdon Jan. 7, 1995 (age 93)

When Delia Ohleson was his teacher, that was on Red Hill on the Lamb Place. He would meet his cousin, Lucy Langdon (Cox) and walk to school.

Oral history from Delbert Langdon, August 1994. On October 25, 1994, he will be 92 years old. (compiled by Dorothy Langdon-Dowell)

Oscar Langdon was 21 when he and his brother, Herbert came to Oregon, Dec. 1892 from South Dakota. They each brought a team of horses and some livestock, coming by boxcar. They went to Rice Valley first and then to Dickinson Mountain. There they took up Donation Land Claims of 160 acres. They both "made good" on their claims, but Herbert went back to South Dakota.

Minnie May Thompson was living with her mother, Mary Amelia Thiele Thompson at the Thompson place on Red Hill. Mary's family (Thieles) were living at Rice Valley. Oscar met Minnie and they were married 08 December 1895. They lived on the land claim for a little over 2 years. Their first child, Mamie was born there 09 January 1897 and they moved three months later.

Oscar and Herbert's brother, Erwin was already in Oregon homesteading by the time they left South Dakota. Perhaps Erwin had introduced Oscar to Minnie.

^{Hubert}
(~~Erwin's~~ son Archie Langdon was born before Herbert Homesteaded on Dickinson Mountain. Archie is older than Mamie)

Oscar Hubert Langdon is the youngest son of Rufus & Catherine Stickle Langdon. Rufus died when Oscar was about 6 years old.

What I remember

By Dorothy Langdon – Rec'd Aug 2000

I don't remember or did not know Oscar & Minnie Langdon. Minnie died before I was born. Oscar died when I was a baby. This is why I started working on genealogy. I wanted to know what kind of people they were, so I had to listen to the stories told to me. What I remember about their children is how they all had a smile on their face. Each one of them were/are fine people (Mamie, Leland, Delbert, Beulah, Ruby, Percy, George). I am proud to say they are my relatives and instilled good, strong values in their children. They are all very special people. As we grow older we realize how precious they are to us.

Aunt Mamie would sit by her window and watch people go by. She had a good memory and was proud of being a news correspondent for several papers. Aunt Mamie & Daddy (Delbert) were very stooped over like their mother (Minnie). She (Aunt Mamie) kept everything and had stacks and stacks of newspapers in her living room. She would crochet rugs out of rags, She attended church regularly. She wrote all the family births, deaths and weddings in her bible.

Leland died of spinal meningitis "Brain Fever". He is gone, but not forgotten. He was crippled from getting his foot caught in a plow while the family was moving.

Delbert is special because he is my dad and I am thankful for having him so long. He died at the age of 96. He didn't get married until age 40 and had 10 children. I only knew him as an old man with no hair! He was very honest and always told us. "Do as you would be done by" and remember the Golden Rule. He did not want to be indebted to anybody.

Aunt Beulah always had a smile on her face and gold on her front tooth. She came up to the house one time and let us kids comb her hair. Although she wore it up in curls she showed us how long it was. She sat out on the front porch in a chair and we combed and combed her long hair. When she had her stroke, we visited her at the Rose Haven Nursing home. She told daddy that we didn't have to visit her anymore because she was going to die and that she loved us & knew we loved her. Daddy said that when he was a kid & had Polio he would get down and couldn't get up. Beulah would have to help him up and rub his arms & legs. When we were little & had family reunions at the Grange Hall, we would always want her to play the piano for us!

Oscar & Minnie's children have lived long, rich lives.

Aunt Ruby – I remember Aunt Ruby coming to visit in the summer time. Once we were at Aunt Mamie's, Aunt Ruby had white sandals on. I told her they were air conditioned shoes!

Uncle Percy & Aunt Ruby played the fiddles together whenever they visited each other. They enjoy playing for Senior dinners. I remember we would usually have dinner at his (Uncle Percy's) house when company came. Sometimes we would have a picnic at Cottage Grove Lake. I remember him taking his boat there.

Uncle George is the youngest child in his family. He passed away at the young age of 60 (the day after he turned 60). He was kind of like our dad too, since his brother married his wife's sister. I remember going to Uncle George & Aunt Hazel's house early in the morning when Jimmy was born. All the other kids except Bertha and I were in school. Daddy dropped us off at Uncle George's so Aunt Hazel could take care of us while he went over to Jessie Tucker's to shear sheep. Daddy and

Uncle George were very close. When Uncle George died Daddy said "Why him? Why not me? I'm older?" I've lived longer." Uncle George always drove Fords. I remember him having a couple of yellow pickups. When he was younger he was in an auto accident. The "crummy" they were riding in was trying to pass a logging truck. The crummy rolled over the bank, Uncle George's pelvis was broken. He usually slept on the floor in later years because of that. Uncle Percy was in that accident.

Uncle George lived with Daddy (Delbert) for a while on Read Hill and rode the bus to town to go to high school. I think he completed his sophomore year. He is 6 months younger than Martha (Martha is Mamie's oldest child)

Memories about my dad (Delbert)

For having such a large family he worked hard to take care of all of us. I remember a salesman being up at the house and he commented on all the kids. Daddy told him they were all his. The salesman asked if he was ashamed of having so many. Daddy told him "NO, why should he be?"

I remember him telling about Mildred Kanipe. He sheared sheep for her. She fixed a cherry pie with the seeds still in the cherries. She had peacocks. One time while he was shearing sheep for her, the peacocks pecked the stickers off his license plates. When he sheared sheep he would haul the shearing machine in the trunk of the car

He told of the story when the house burned down at the upper place (Elkhead). He was living on Red Hill at the time. George walked over the hill to tell him about the fire. George had on an old hat that lopped down over his ears (it was a hat their mother wore). Delbert said "that's some hat you've got on". George said, "it's the best I've got, everything else burned".

Daddy also tells the story of Bessie (Daugherty) Mulkey trying to sell him encyclopedias for his kids. Daddy did not want to buy them. She got mad & told him "to eat his old potatoes & gravy and she would have ice cream."

My dad was a good man and he has a special place in my heart and I have good memories of him and his family.

About his 10 kids... we're spoiled rotten even though Elva says we have to cut our own switch. We knew we had to mind. Some people say "not spoiled, just loved."

We had a few hospital visits while growing up. Anna, Lebert, Roy, Joyce were in the old woodshed. They had vinegar & baking soda in an old shoe polish bottle shaking it up and passing it around. It blew up in Anna's face.

Lebert was knocked unconscious for at least a week They were herding cows over to the Thompson place. There were throwing rocks or dirt clods at the cows. Daddy told them to knock it off. Mary threw a rock of something hitting Lebert in the back of the head, knocking him out.

Betty was playing in the ditch where there was broken glass. Somehow she managed to get cut on the leg requiring stitches. She also missed most of her 2nd grade year due to pneumonia and having her tonsils out. She was very sick.

Elva had to have about 17 stitches in her knee. Betty, Elva, Jimmy & Bertha took the tractor to peel Chitum bark. On the way back the tractor acted like it was running out of gas. Betty decided if she drove faster, they would make it home okay. So driving like a crazy woman with Elva on the back holding on to a crosscut saw. Elva fell off with the saw. She was cut pretty bad. She didn't want to go to the doctor. Knowing that she was going to have to she covered her leg with a washcloth & told daddy it was just a scratch.